

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8347  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 13368

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT GR  
SUBJECT: UDC CONGRESS WRAP-UP

REF: ATHENS 13189

1. THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER'S DECEMBER 12-14 CONVENTION ON CRETE PRODUCED NO FIREWORKS AND LITTLE MOVEMENT WITHIN THE PARTY. HOWEVER, PARTY LEADER GEORGE MAVROS HEIGHTENED ATTACKS ON PRIME MINISTER'S PERSON -- HAVE STRENGTHENED THE UDC'S CREDENTIALS AS AN "OPPOSITION FORCE". AND THROUGH A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS SERIES OF PAPERS PREPARED AND DELIVERED BY UDC MEMBERS AND CONGRESSMEN, THE PARTY MILITANTS WERE ENLIGHTENED ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION'S POSITION ON A SERIES OF ISSUES RANGING FROM THE GREEK ECONOMY TO GREEK EDUCATION.

2. THE MEETING ON CRETE WAS ADVERTISED AS A STEP TOWARDS TRANSFORMING THE UDC FROM A TRADITIONAL GREEK PARTY--BASED ON PERSONALITIES, WITHOUT ORGANIZATION, IDEAS OR GREAT PURPOSES--INTO A MODERN POLITICAL PARTY--LOYAL TO IDEAS RATHER THAN A PERSONALITY, PLEDGED TO SOCIAL DEMOCRACY AND EQUIPPED WITH A SOLID ORGANIZATION. (THE CRETE MEETING WAS ACTUALLY A PRE-CONGRESS FOR THE UDC NATIONAL CONVENTION, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR 1977 IN THESSALONIKI.)

3. WHILE EVERYBODY WHO WISHES GREEK DEMOCRACY WELL HOPES THAT THE PARTY SUCCEEDS IN METAMORPHOSING ITSELF, THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO BE SANGUINE ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY. IN FACT, THE SAME "OLD POLITICIANS" ARE IN CHARGE OF THIS ATTEMPT AT

METAMORPHOSIS, AND IT IS HARD TO HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE THAT THEIR HEARTS ARE REALLY IN THE EFFORT.

4. THE TOPIC OF "OPPOSITION UNITY" WAS A CENTRAL CONCERN AT THE CRETE MEETING. MAVROS MORE GENERAL REMARKS WERE GIVEN A HARD EDGE BY DEPUTY ATHANASSIOS KANELLOPOULOS, WHO STATED TO THE MEETING (1) THAT THE PARTY SEEKS UNITY WITH PASOK AND (2) THERE CAN BE NO UNITY BETWEEN THE PARTY AND THE COMMUNISTS. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY ONE UDC'ER THAT THE REJECTION OF THE COMMUNISTS REFERS TO THE DEEP-SEATED ANTI-COMMUNISM OF MANY UDC VOTERS. AND KANELLOPOULOS, BEFORE THE CRETE MEETING AND ANOTHER UDC DEPUTY AFTERWARDS, MADE IT CLEAR TO ALL THAT THE CENTER IN FACT NEITHER WANTS NOR EXPECTS UNITY WITH PASOK. THEY TOLD US THAT PUBLIC CALLS FOR UNITY ARE AIMED ONLY AT PLACING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DIVISION BETWEEN PASOK AND THE UDC ON THE SHOULDERS OF ANDREAS PAPANDREOU.

5. RETURNING UDC DEPUTIES APPEAR FAIRLY WELL SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE CRETE MEETING -- THOUGH MANY OF THEM DID NOT HAVE VERY HIGH EXPECTATIONS BEFORE THEY WENT. ONE UDC'ER TOLD US IN HIS OPINION THAT THOUGH MAVROS INCREASED HIS STATURE AS AN OPPOSITIONIST, THE PARTY STILL MUST FIND A WAY TO ATTRACT CENTERIST VOTERS. IN THE OPINION OF THIS DEPUTY, EVENTS ON CRETE DID NOT HELP PARTICULARLY IN ACHIEVING THAT OBJECTIVE.  
KUBISCH

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